PUBLICATIONS.

The Anatomy of the Brain.—A manual for students and practitioners of medicine. The brain of the sheep (ovis aries) being selected for description because of its availability and its practical identity with the human brain for laboratory use. By J. F. BURKHOLDER, M. D., Professor of Anatomy in the Illinois Medical College and the Illinois Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat College, etc., with an introduction by Prof. Henry H. Donaldson of the Neurological Laboratory of the University of Chicago. With 36 full page plates. G. P. Engelhard & Company, Chicago, 1904. Price $2.00, postpaid.

The author rightly states in his preface "that the teaching of the architecture of the human brain has been a failure for the average medical student, not because of a want of very many admirable works on the subject, but on account of the great scarcity of appropriate laboratory material, or perhaps the proper appreciation of the material ready at hand." For this reason he advocates the use of the brains of sheep which are easily procured and so closely resemble the human brain that they can be dissected by the student without fear of gaining wrong impressions. The method is not entirely new, but a systematic description of the brain of the sheep has not been previously presented in this form. The text is written in a clear style and the illustrations are good.

W. T.

Practical Dietetics.—By A. L. BENEDICT, A. M., M. D., Councilor American Gastro-Enterological Association; Fellow American Academy of Medicine; Consultant in Digestive Diseases City Hospital for Women, and Riverside Hospital, Buffalo. Chicago, G. P. Englehard & Co. Price $1.50 net.

The author states in his preface that "a work on dietetics could best deserve the qualification of practical by assuming that the reader has at his command technical culinary skill." Considering that in but two medical schools in the United States instruction in dietetics is given, we wonder how many recent graduates can intelligently criticize or direct the preparation of a special meal or diet in certain diseases? While the student will not learn from this volume the principles and practice of food preparation, he will learn a good deal about dietetic needs in health and in disease. The chapters (VIII-IX) dealing with diet in diabetes and obesity are particularly well written. A lucid and concise exposition of dietetics "of the period of growth," i. e., Diet in Infancy (Ch. X-XI) with tables, prescriptions, etc., make the book exceedingly valuable to the general practitioner. We regret that the chapters dealing with diet in alimentary, cardiac, and renal diseases, give limited consideration to food and drink in diseases of these systems. On the whole the work is well and ably written, and we hope will prove useful to student and practitioner alike. We heartily commend the work. A. P. L.

A Laboratory Manual of Anatomy.—By LEWELLYS F. BARKER, M. B. Tor., Professor and Head of the Department of Anatomy in the University of Chicago and Rush Medical College. Assisted by Dean DeWitt Lewis, A. B., M. D., and Daniel Graisberry Revell, A. B., M. B., Instructors in Anatomy in the University of Chicago. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and London, 1904.

The object of this book is to provide students with a more thorough and more systematic book for use in the dissecting room. The works at present existing do not include many of the methods now used in the teaching of anatomy, and furthermore their descriptions are couched in the language of the old nomenclature. Barker's work well serves to introduce the student to the new anatomical nomenclature which has entirely pervaded German works on Anatomy, and is gradually invading the works of English speaking people. The introductory chapter of the work is taken up with remarks on the instruments needed, the clothing to be worn, the value of drawing, and the anatomical library. Especially to be commended to students and teachers of anatomy are the remarks regarding the general conduct and surroundings of the dissecting room in which the writer deprecates the old-style surroundings of tobacco smoke, spitoons, and dirty old clothes and suggests the substitution of frequently changed, white gowns, and ventilation. The section relating to libraries also contains suggestions as to training students in looking up literature, a branch of training which is sadly neglected at present. The remainder of the book is taken up with a systematic description of the dissection of the different regions of the body. The instructions are clearly worded, and most of the scientific terms which are in a foreign language are translated and explained. The book is well arranged, well printed, well illustrated, and contains an excellent index. It is calculated to serve well the purpose for which it is intended. G. B.

New Methods of Treatment.—By DR. LAUMONIER; translated and edited from the second revised and enlarged French edition by H. W. SYERS, M. A., M. D. Published by W. T. Keener & Co., Chicago.

This book should be very cautiously read and many statements of the author accepted as merely tentative and open to much criticism. Such a mental attitude would naturally suggest itself to the thoughtful physician when considering the merits or demerits of any treatise on the newer remedies. No matter what the general reputation of an author, unless his absolute integrity is personally known to the reader, a certain element of suspicion is bound to intrude itself when one reads the high commendations of new, little tried and much patented and trade-marked remedies. Much of the book is excellent, particularly the portions relating to nutritive alterants, and dealing with lecithins, nucleins, etc. On the other hand, one cannot accept as unquestioned such statements as the following: "Even when tuberculosis is advanced and accompanied with febrile symptoms, (disodic methylarsinate) has given encouraging results, less certain and less satisfactory, it is true, than when the disease is in an earlier stage, for it seems that then cure, if not the rule, is at least frequent." And again: "In malaria and malarial fevers the result of this treatment is, according to Dr. Billet, constant, definite and decisive. Whatever may be the type of the fever, even in pernicious forms, the attacks disappear, and do not return when disodic methylarsinate is given two or three times at most by means of hypodermic injection."

The author's use of the word adrenalin is to be seriously deplored. In this work he devotes some space to a consideration of the active principle of the adrenal gland, which he designates by the foregoing and controlled name. Most chemists and savants generally have retained the uncontrolled name suggested by Abel—epinephrin—and this should always be used to indicate the active principle under question, rather than any one of the numerous trade names for the ten or a dozen different brands upon the market. Such usage tends to somewhat discredit other portions of the book that might otherwise carry greater weight with the reader. In dealing with the various serums the author does not stick to his predetermined attitude, as expressed in the preface, wherein he says that he proposes to give information only "concerning the new drugs and methods of treatment whose worth has been established and which are sufficiently well known to be described in a definite and practical manner." On the whole the book cannot be considered as other than premature and dangerous in the hands of the busy practitioner who cannot undertake to investigate many of the still open questions for himself.